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Synthesis and Reactions of a Diarylphospha-arsaalkene

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Synthesis and Reactions of a Diarylphospha-arsaalkene

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Only a few representatives of the class of phosphaarsaalkenes R-P=As-R' have been described in the literature. We have synthesized P-2,4,6-tri-tert-butyl-phenyl-As-2,4,6-triisopropylphenylphosphaarsaethene (1) by the following route:

$$Ar-PH_2 + Cl_2As-Ar' \xrightarrow{DBU} Ar-P=As-Ar'$$
 (1); $Ar = 2,4,6-tri-tert$ -butylphenyl; $Ar' = 2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl.$

The easy accessibility of this crystalline, orange-coloured, air- and water--stable compound enabled us to make a detailed investigation of its properties and chemical reactivity.

The ^{31}P NMR spectrum (δ = 580 ppm) and the mass spectrum characterize 1 as a genuine, monomeric phosphaarsaalkene. In spite of its stability, 1 could be reacted with CCl₄, Br₂, S, and Se to give Ar-P(Cl₂)=As-Ar', Ar-PBr₂, and Ar-P-As(Ar')X (X = S or Se), respectively. Quite unexpected was the reaction of 1 with 3,5-di-tert-butylorthoquinone (2) which led not to the expected cycloaddition product 3, but to 4 and 5; further reaction of 4 with 2 gave Yoshifuji's Ar-P=P-Ar and 5. A mechanism for this interesting mechanism will be proposed.

Ar
$$Ar'$$

Ar Ar'

Ar Ar'
 Ar'